

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A gasket comprising:

a base sheet of substantially contiguous metal material having at least one aperture bounded by an edge of said base sheet;

one or more coined angles formed at said edge of said base sheet;

an elastomeric material disposed on said one or more coined angles and said edge of said base sheet; and

wherein said one or more coined angles increase a surface area of said base sheet exposed to said elastomeric material, thereby increasing bonding strength between said base sheet and said elastomeric material, and wherein said one or more coined angles includes a textured surface to further increase the bonding strength between said base sheet and said elastomeric material.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Original) A gasket according to Claim 1, wherein said elastomeric material disposed on said one or more coined angles forms a sealing bead.

4. (Original) A gasket according to Claim 1, wherein said base sheet is substantially thin.

5. (Original) A gasket according to Claim 4, wherein said base sheet has a thickness of approximately 1.0 mm.

6. (Original) A gasket according to Claim 1, wherein said coined angles extend radially inwardly from said edge and are integrally joined to said base sheet.

7. (Original) A gasket according to Claim 1, wherein said base sheet is generally planar.

8. (Original) A gasket according to Claim 1, wherein said elastomeric material comprises silicone rubber.

9. (Original) A gasket according to Claim 1, wherein said coined angles are generally symmetric about an axis, A, of said base sheet.

10. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a gasket comprising the steps of:

forming one or more coined angles at an edge of a base sheet of substantially contiguous metal material;

applying a texture to an outer surface of the one or more coined angles;

disposing an elastomeric material on the one or more coined angles and on the edge of the base sheet;

whereby the one or more coined angles increase a surface area of the base sheet exposed to the elastomeric material, thereby increasing bonding strength between the base sheet and the elastomeric material.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) A gasket comprising:

a base sheet of substantially contiguous metal material having at least one aperture bounded by an edge of said base sheet;

one or more coined angles formed at said edge of said base sheet, wherein said coined angles are defined by a gradual reduction in thickness toward said edge of said base sheet;

a textured surface applied to said one or more coined angles; and

an elastomeric material disposed on said one or more coined angles and said edge of said base sheet;

wherein said coined angles wherein said one or more coined angles increase a surface area of said base sheet exposed to said elastomeric material, thereby increasing bonding strength between said base sheet and said elastomeric material.

13. (New) The gasket of claim 1, wherein said textured surface is applied to said one or more coined angles, at least in part, by the addition of material.

14. (New) The method of claim 10, wherein said texture is applied to said one or more coined angles, at least in part, by the addition of material.

15. (New) The gasket of claim 12, wherein said textured surface is applied to said one or more coined angles, at least in part, by the addition of material.

16. (New) The gasket of claim 1, wherein said one or more coined angle extends between said edge and a planar surface defined by said gasket, wherein said edge is generally orthogonal to said planar surface, and said textured surface is oriented at an angle of about 5 degrees to about 30 degrees to said planar surface.

17. (New) The gasket of claim 16, wherein said textured surface is oriented at an angle of about 10 degrees to said planar surface.

18. (New) The method of claim 10, wherein said one or more coined angle extends between said edge and a planar surface defined by said gasket, wherein said edge is generally orthogonal to said planar surface, and said step of applying a texture to an outer surface includes applying a texture to a surface that is oriented at an angle of about 5 degrees to about 30 degrees to said planar surface.

19. (New) The gasket of claim 12, wherein said one or more coined angle extends between said edge and a planar surface defined by said gasket, wherein said edge is generally orthogonal to said planar surface, and said textured surface is oriented at an angle of about 5 degrees to about 30 degrees to said planar surface.